

THE VINITA WEEKLY CHIEFTAIN.

VOL. XXI.

VINITA, INDIAN TERRITORY, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1903.

NO. 36

I Won't have my bald head tickled when I can buy a Screen Door at Darrough Hardware Co's. for 85c.

MINERAL LEASES

New Form Issued by the Secretary of Interior.

MORE STRINGENT.

Radical Changes in its Provisions With Reference to Payment of Royalty and other Conditions.

The Secretary of Interior has submitted a new form for Cherokee oil and mineral leases, a copy of which was received by Col. Zevely. There are some radical changes from the other leases submitted by the department. The new one is specific and goes into detail. A letter from the secretary states that the new forms are being printed and will be forwarded as soon as possible.

All leases must follow the form approved by the interior department and must provide that only so much of the surface of land described as may be necessary to carry on the work contemplated shall be occupied by the lessees. All lessees must give bond guaranteeing payment of royalties and rents. The bond schedule follows: Forty to eight acres, \$1,000; eighty to one hundred and twenty acres \$1,500; one hundred and twenty to one hundred and sixty, \$2,000. Each forty acres above one hundred and sixty, \$500 additional. The secretary can raise the amount if he deems it necessary. No lease shall be sublet, transferred or assigned without the consent and approval of the secretary of the interior. All lessees shall provide for the payment of advanced annual royalties in sums not less than fifteen per cent per acre per annum, for one or two years thirty cents for three and four year, seventy-five cents for fifth and each succeeding year for the term the lease is to run. All leases should provide for the payment of a royalty of one per cent of the value of all crude oil extracted from said land and to be paid month succeeding that in which it is produced and the average value of the oil during the month in which it is produced shall constitute the criterion for computing the royalty.

The royalty on natural gas shall be fixed by the secretary at the end of each year, or oftener, in his discretion. All lessees will be required to keep full and correct account of their operations and make report thereof promptly at the end of each month to the lessor and secretary. The right is given to prospect for extract, pipe, store, refine and remove all such oil and natural gas to use as much as is necessary, also right land and use natural gas or oil as much as it is necessary, also right of fuel to carry on operations. The lessor is given free use of gas to light his residence. If the lessee fails to pay the per acre royalty sixty after it is due, the lease becomes void. The lessee must agree to exercise diligence in sinking wells for oil and gas and operate same in a workmanlike manner. He must commit no waste and must surrender property at the termination of his lease; he shall not remove any buildings or improvements except tools, boilers, pipe lines, pumps, drills, engines, tanks and machinery. The lessee shall not allow any nuisance committed on the property nor any intoxicating liquor sold or given away. He must plug abandoned wells so as to effectually shut off all water above the oil bearing horizon. Amounts due for royalties shall be paid upon implementation,

tools and movable machinery. If the lessee makes reasonable and bonafide effort to find and produce oil in paying quantities and such effort is unsuccessful, he may at any time thereafter with the approval of the secretary of the interior, surrender and wholly existing obligations, provided, however, payment and performance of all that the approval of such surrender by the secretary will be required only during the time his approval of the alienation of title and is required.

FLYNN IS FOR ONE STATE.

Single Statehood is Oklahoma's Only Chance, Says the Ex-Delegate.

Dennis Flynn, ex-delegate from Oklahoma, has come to the conclusion that the only hope for statehood for Oklahoma is through a joint fight with the Indian territory for single statehood.

"The fight made last winter," said Mr. Flynn in a recent interview, "was the final struggle for double statehood. If anything is accomplished at the next session it will be through a united effort to pass a bill admitting the Indian territory and Oklahoma as one state."

Republican leaders have come to the conclusion that Oklahoma, if admitted as a state with its present boundaries, would be a Democratic state. The Oklahoma drift certainly is Democratic. The new population which goes into the territory from the North is about equally divided between the two parties. The immigration from Arkansas and Texas is almost solidly Democratic. The Republicans have become convinced that Oklahoma is in the Democratic zone and if a new state is forced upon them it will do no greater political damage to give it 40,000 Democratic majority by making Oklahoma and Indian territory one state than by making Oklahoma a separate state with 5,000 or 10,000 majority. It will require a united effort on the part of friends of statehood for western territories to win in the next Congress. Under present conditions, the Democrats in Oklahoma and Indian territory will be almost as important factors in determining the statehood results as the Republicans. There is a Democratic opposition to the single statehood scheme which must be overcome to make probable the success of a bill admitting the two territories as one state.

Several Democratic senators want to force Congress to make two states of Indian territory and Oklahoma in order to get two additional senators. Mr. Bate of Tennessee, the ranking Democrat on the territories committee, holds to this idea, and Senator Bailey, the best tactician and most stalwart debater on the Democratic side, also supports this contention. Added to this senatorial influence is the resourceful Indian territory lobby maintained by the plunder which has come from Indian territory "graft." The organization offered to promote single statehood and should lose no time in the summer months in organizing its forces to work on Democrats as well as Republicans.

Just before he left Washington, Senator Beveridge, chairman of the territories committee, said to the correspondent for The Star that his committee would support the bill admitting Indian territory and Oklahoma as one state. What would be done respecting the admission of New Mexico and Arizona, he declared, was for subsequent consideration.

Attend the National Assembly Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Nashville, Tenn., May 21st. to 29th. One fare plus \$2 for the round trip, via the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf R. R.

INDIAN ELOQUENCE.

A Mighty Transformation Portrayed in Beautiful Language.

Wednesday being Oklahoma day, red, white and black can read with instruction this eloquent oration delivered this week by William McCombe, Creek Indian, at Okmulgee:

"We, the representatives of a once all powerful race on the American continent are met here today to play our part on the stage of life and government.

As I stand before you a vision rises before me in which I see the past, the present and the future.

The picture unrolls out of the dim and traditional past showing the untutored fathers, mothers and children of our race basking in the sunshine and uncorrupted happiness and health of that romantic and poetic time when as God's children, guided by wisdom handed down in song and story, and by the lights hung out in the skies and the lessons read from the book of nature laying open before them they lived and died with the pure light of the morning, the generous warmth of the meridian and the red glow of the setting sun prompting to love and marriage, the chase and the dance. Then came the white man with his civilization and the push and dash and commercial enterprise born of conditions existing beyond the changing plains of the ever rolling sea. With pure hearts, free from every shadow of suspicion and guilt the red man hailed the coming of the white man as a gracious gift from the Great Spirit, and welcomed his white brother with open arms to the fairest lands laying beneath the circling blue of heaven's canopy; took him by the hand and led him through the pathless forest, along the singing brooks, beside the gentle flowing rivers, to the mountain tops from whence he could feast his enraptured vision upon broad plains, where the tall prairie grass bending and swaying in music waves before the gentle breeze, stretching far away towards the home of the setting sun.

"He took him by the hand and led him to his wigwam; fed him upon the sweet and nutritious bread baked of the hand ground meal of the Indian corn; spread before him the meat of the deer, the elk and the buffalo; made his bed of the aromatic and elastic twigs and branches of the pine. the balsam and the eassafrase, covered by the rich and now priceless furs captured in the hunt and the chase; gave him his fairest star-eyed daughters to wed, and countless broad acres for his home, and thus was the door opened through which we passed from the innocent, guileless, happy past to this eager, madly rushing strenuous present.

"Looking about us today we stand entranced as we contemplate the wondrous metamorphosis, the vast and almost indescribable changes wrought by the hand of man since the white man first rapped at the door of the red man. Countless hamlets, villages, towns and cities now dot the land once owned and completely dominated by the Indians. Endless stretches of steel rails now bind the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, the tropical sunlit gulf to the Arctic regions. The demon locomotive with puffs and ear-splitting screams, rushes madly from city to city, from ocean to ocean, the smoke of numberless forges, foundries and factories now mount the ethereal stairways of the skies; the schools, the colleges the churches and the cathedrals are training the mind and comforting the souls of many millions red, white and black of the sons and daughters of men. And here

we stand in the midst of this animated scene of life, enterprise and human energy. Nothing stands still either in nature or among men, everything moves either upward, onward or downward. Confronted by these conditions, by this environment what is our duty?

"Every consideration of expediency, of duty, of right demands of us that we meet the emergency of the hour; that we step into the front rank of the moving millions of this glorious land of ours; that we buckle on the armor of valiant Americans and armed with the sword of American citizenship cut our way through the ranks of poverty, ignorance and superstition with their concomitant attendants of want and misery, sheltered by the starry banner of our common country, proclaim our ourselves active members and earnest workers in this 'government of the people, by the people and for the people.'"

SEC. HITCHCOCK COMING.

A Telegram to Tams Bixby Names May 7 as the Date.

Secretary of the Interior Hitchcock will be in Muskogee on May 7. Certain citizens of Muskogee have been trying for some time to get the secretary to visit Indian territory, believing that his well known desire to familiarize himself with the actual conditions here would lead to an attempt on his part to accept the invitation, but the first information received that he had decided to make the trip had actually set the day was a telegram received yesterday evening by Hon. Tams Bixby, chairman of the Dawes Commission, from Hon. Theo. Ryan, Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The people of Muskogee and Indian territory will rejoice that this official to whom is entrusted the entire management of territory affairs has decided to visit this place in person. The settling of tribal affairs is a stupendous work and the questions that Secretary Hitchcock has to deal with in this connection are in many instances of the most complex character, and it is believed that the knowledge to be gained by a personal visit to this country will greatly facilitate the work of winding up tribal affairs.—Phoenix.

RAILROAD NEWS.

Failure of the Frisco-Rock Island Deal Will Increase Building in the Ter.

Should the Frisco-Rock Island deal ultimately be abandoned it will lead to a great deal of additional railroad building in the southwest. The purchase of the Frisco was first thought of by the Rock Island interests, not with any view merely to the acquisition of a competing system or for purposes of consolidation pure and simple, but because the control of the Rock Island saw that to carry out their plans successfully they must either buy or build.

As the Rock Island system stands today it is very incomplete. Its main lines are all right so far as they go. They traverse a rich and rapidly developing territory, but to develop their full strength and obtain the best results from their operation they must have feeders. If these be not obtained, and that right speedily, competing systems will have occupied the territory and permanently deprived the Rock Island of traffic and revenue which it has now an opportunity to secure for itself. The acquisition of the Frisco would have completely met its needs. That system fits into the Rock Island in a way to suggest that it was destined by the very nature of things ultimately to become a part of it. It can hardly be said to be a direct competitor, though the two systems touch at many common points.

WILL BE SOLD.

Segregation of Coal and Asphalt Lands For Sale.

The selection of the coal and asphalt lands in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations Indian Territory, for segregation and sale was completed and the report was submitted March 19. This segregation was made under the direction of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes by order of the Secretary of the Interior, and Mr. Joseph A. Taff, of the United States Geological Survey, was assigned to make the selection.

With three assistants, Mr. Taff began work December 1, 1902, and during the progress of the survey traced the outcrop of the coal beds as accurately as possible through several thousand square miles of coal-bearing rocks, which had been surveyed during the preceding five years. Nearly one hundred square miles of new territory were surveyed in order to complete the geological work of the Choctaw, Chickasaw coal fields. Previous surveys in this coal field made it possible in the short time allowed, to determine the structure of the coal and the depth to which the beds can be economically mined. Otherwise years instead of months would have been required to select the lands for segregation.

Ten coal beds were found to be of economic value and were located for segregation. The coal in the lands selected ranging in quality from that of high-grade bituminous coking coals to medium-grade bituminous steaming coals that do not coke successfully. The coal in each bed varies slightly from point to point both in thickness and in quality, and also differs in quality from that of other beds. The coal beds vary in inclination beneath the surface, and extend from the outcrops to depths beyond the limit of practicable mining. Thus the value of the coal in each bed beneath a single tract of land varies according to quality, thickness and depth beneath the surface. The usual characteristics governing the value of coal can be ascertained in the case of these coals only by means of detailed geological surveys and practical tests.

The asphalt lands selected contain asphalt of two general classes. To the larger of these classes belong the bituminous semi-liquid deposits which are found permeating porous sandstones and limestones. These occur both in horizontal beds and in beds dipping, at various angles to the surface. Deposits of this nature are found filling rocks that range in thickness from thin beds to beds several hundred feet thick. The second class of asphalt is solid, has general appearance of a highly bituminous coal, and is usually clear of earthly or stony impurities. It is found filling fissures as solid veins pitching steeply into the earth, and may be mined and shipped in the same manner as coal.

FRISCO GETS THE OZARK

Rumor That the Ozark & Cherokee Central Will Change Hands.

A party of prominent railroad officials came through Tablequah Sunday morning on a special train. Among the party were President Yoakum, Vice President Winchell Superintendents Davidson and Gray and managers Spence and Flowers, of the Frisco system, and Wm. Kenefick, W. H. Seaman, E. E. Hughes and others of the Ozark & Cherokee Central railway. They stopped here long enough to drive around the town and view the magnificent educational institutions, and to incidentally get a drink of the best water in the

world, after which they continued their journey to Okmulgee and St. Louis.

It is stated upon good authority that these gentlemen were going over the road on a tour of inspection, preparatory to merging the Ozark and Frisco roads. It is also stated that the Frisco will formally take charge of the Ozark & Cherokee Central on the 28 of this month, at which time three new engines are to be put into service and the Falco's Oklahoma business for Memphis will be sent over the new line. Some new trains and equipments will be put on. This will mean that the number of trains and the service will be almost doubled.

Among things that is considered as significant and which has a tendency to confirm the rumor is the resignation of E. E. Hughes as general manager of the O. & C. C. His resignation took effect Tuesday. He has accepted a position with one of the leading railroads of Michigan.—Arrow.

REMOVAL SUSPENDED.

Order Made By Secretary of Interior Suspending Removal of Land Office.

The following telegram was received Monday afternoon from Mr. Chas. B. Rogers, who left Vinita Saturday afternoon for Washington to lay the matter of the removal of land office before the Interior Department:

"Arrived eight this morning, saw first assistant Secretary of Interior. Order made suspending removal until personal investigation by Hitchcock who will visit Territory May 6th."

THESE HAVE LOST.

Interior Department Affirms Decision of Dawes Commission.

The Dawes Commission has rejected the application for enrollment of S. T. ("Bud") Brown, his mother, Mrs. Ritchie, Steve Hill's family and others who sought enrollment as freedmen.

Indian Territory Booming.

Growing like a weed. This is the best phrase to use in describing the marvelous development going on in towns and cities of Indian Territory. The condition in any part of the territory may be likened to prove that the expression is not extravagant. Every enterprise and activity usually existing in a rapidly growing country is on the boom. The artisan, capitalist and professional man, no matter how hard they all work, cannot supply the demand made upon their labor and money. Dwellings, schools, churches, blocks of business houses, miles of pavements, sewers, and street car roads and telephone lines are being constructed with a busy haste which suggests the excitement, confusion, uproar of great armies digging ditches, raising embankments and breastworks, pitching and fortifying their camps for protection against an advancing foe. Railroads without bonds or bonuses are connecting these new-sprung and growing towns are being opened, and gas and oil wells bored, while the erection of manufacturing and various industries is keeping pace with the discovery and opening up of the natural resources of the land. Indian Territory is the last and greatest chance in the Southwest offered to the pioneer and to those who are attracted by the possibilities of the glory and success which are the rewards of the founders of a new country.—Kansas City Journal.

One fare plus \$2 for the round trip over the Choctaw Route (Rock Island system) to Savannah, Ga., for the Southern Baptist Convention, May 7th to 14th, inclusive.